

**UNCLASSIFIED**OCA STAT  
INCOMING

00 RUEAIB  
 ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
 MSI5279  
 00 RUEHC  
 DE RUEHWN #1164 0401607  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 O 091607Z FEB 88  
 FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9280  
 INFO RUEHUA/AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA 3434  
 RUEGON/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 5382  
 RUEHGR/AMEMBASSY GRENADA 5918  
 RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 6906  
 RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 8570  
 RUANUSF/COMUSFOR CARIB KEY WEST FL  
 BT  
 UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 01164

E.O. 12356: N/A  
 TAGS: PREL, XL  
 SUBJECT: NO FIRM DATE FOR US LEGISLATION ON  
 CARIBBEAN

1. CONGRESSMEN ATTENDING THE FEBRUARY 7-8 STUDY MISSION ON U.S. CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS EMPHASIZED THAT NO ASSURANCES CAN BE GIVEN AS TO WHEN LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE REGION MIGHT BECOME LAW. CHAIRMAN CROCKETT TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE GIBBONS BILL, INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE IN AUGUST 1987, ENJOYED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AND PASSAGE WOULD BE PURSUED "IN THE NEXT CONGRESS -- IF NOT EARLIER." CONGRESSMAN FASCELL EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONGRESS HAS A VERY FULL AGENDA IN 1988, PLUS THE NECESSARY RECESSES FOR THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES' NATIONAL CONVENTIONS, AND IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO BRING THE BILL ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS THIS YEAR. REP. CRANE POINTED OUT THAT A STRIPPED-DOWN BILL STOOD A BETTER CHANCE OF PASSAGE, AND THE GIBBONS BILL "ALREADY HAS A LOT IN IT."

2. REP. CROCKETT SAID HE HOPES TO INTRODUCE HIS OWN BILL, KNOWN AS THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1988, BEFORE ELECTION RECESS. (DEPARTMENT HAS COPY OF THE CROCKETT DRAFT WHICH ADDRESSES BROAD U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES VIS-A-VIS THE CARIBBEAN). SUBSEQUENT PASSAGE WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, BE POSSIBLE BEFORE 1989.

3. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE STUDY SESSIONS, CHAIRMAN CROCKETT NOTED THAT CONGRESSIONAL LOBBYING EFFORTS BY CARIBBEAN INTERESTS WERE "MINIMAL", AND THAT WEST INDIAN LEADERS MORE OFTEN MADE THEIR CONTACTS AT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH LEVEL. REP. FASCELL SUGGESTED A REGIONAL LOBBYING ORGANIZATION, WHICH COULD APPROPRIATELY BE HANDLED BY CARICOM. CARICOM SECRETARY-GENERAL RAINFORD RESPONDED THAT

*HFAC*  
*Rep Crockett*  
*Rep Gibbons*  
*Rep FASCELL*  
*Rep Crane*

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LOBBYING WAS CERTAINLY DESIRABLE, BUT THAT  
"PROPOSALS FROM LOBBYING FIRMS WOULD TAKE MOST  
OF OUR BUDGET, AND WE COULD STILL END UP WITH  
NOTHING." ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID,  
"THIS EXERCISE (THE STUDY MISSION) WAS WORTH  
SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF LOBBYING."  
BECKHAM  
END OF MESSAGE

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